

1 2. A method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records stored in a database of an  
2 accession processing system where each accession record includes a plurality of fields,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 a) generating a plurality of error type records, each record defining criteria for determining  
5 when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error;

6 b) storing the plurality of error type records in a database of the accession processing  
7 system;

8 c) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;

9 d) retrieving one of the plurality of error type records;

10 e) determining whether the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type  
11 records is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records; and

12 f) indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error  
13 type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is  
14 satisfied.

1 3. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 2, wherein each  
2 accession record represents a service request.

1 4. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 3, wherein each  
2 accession record includes a field indicating the payor.

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1 5. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 4, wherein at least  
2 one of the plurality of error type records includes the payor field as part of the criteria for  
3 determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error.

1 6. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 4, wherein the  
2 plurality of error type records define criteria for determining when one or more fields of an  
3 accession record represents one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and unbillable error.

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1 7. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 4, further  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 g) generating a plurality of error handling records, each error handling record defining at  
4 least one step for the processing of an error type;

5 h) storing the plurality of error handling records in a database of the accession processing  
6 system;

7 i) retrieving an indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type  
8 from the indication database;

9 j) retrieving one of the plurality of error handling records that corresponds to the error type;  
10 and

11 k) performing the step dictated in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.

1 8. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 7, wherein at least  
2 one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field and the at least one step  
3 to be performed for the error type varies as a function of the accession payor.

1 9. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 8, wherein the at  
2 least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records includes one of  
3 automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral, and hold.

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1 10. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 9, wherein at least  
2 one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field and the at least  
3 one step to be performed for the error type varies as a function of the accession record  
4 creation date.

1 11. An accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records, comprising:

2 a) a database including a plurality of accession records where each accession record  
3 includes a plurality of fields;

4 b) an updatable database including a plurality of error type records, each error type record  
5 defining criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent  
6 an error;

7 c) means for retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;

8 d) means for retrieving one of the plurality of error type records;

9 e) an accession error indication database including records that indicate the error types  
10 determined to exist in at least one of the plurality of accession records;

11 f) means for determining whether the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of  
12 error type records is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records; and

13 g) means for updating the accession error indication database to indicate that the one of the  
14 plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one  
15 of the plurality of error type records is satisfied.

1 12. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 9, wherein

2 each accession record represents a service request.

1 13. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 12,

2 wherein each accession record includes a field indicating the payor.

1 14. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 13,  
2 wherein at least one of the plurality of error type records includes the payor field as part of  
3 the criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error.

1 15. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 13,  
2 wherein the plurality of error type records define criteria for determining when one or more  
3 fields of an accession record represents one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and  
4 unbillable error.

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1 16. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 13, further  
2 comprising:

3 h) an error handling database including a plurality of error handling records, each error  
4 handling record defining at least one step for the processing of an error type;

5 i) means for retrieving an indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an  
6 error type from the accession error indication database;

7 j) means for retrieving one of the plurality of error handling records from the error handling  
8 database that corresponds to the indicated error type; and

9 k) means for performing the step dictated in the retrieved one of the plurality of error  
10 handling records.

1 17. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 16,  
2 wherein at least one of the plurality of error handling records of the error handling database  
3 includes a payor field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type varies as a  
4 function of the accession payor.

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1 18. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 17,  
2 wherein the at least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records  
3 includes one of automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral,  
4 and hold.

1 19. The accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records of claim 18,  
2 wherein at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field  
3 and the at least one step to be performed for the error type varies as a function of the  
4 accession record creation date.

1 20. An article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records stored  
2 in a database of an accession processing system where each accession record includes a  
3 plurality of fields, the article of manufacture comprising computer readable storage media  
4 including program logic embedded therein that causes control circuitry to perform the steps  
5 of:

- 6 a) generating a plurality of error type records, each record defining criteria for determining  
7 when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error;  
8 b) storing the plurality of error type records in a database of the accession processing  
9 system;  
10 c) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;  
AI 4 11 d) retrieving one of the plurality of error type records;  
12 e) determining whether the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type  
13 records is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records; and  
14 f) indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error  
15 type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is  
16 satisfied.

1 21. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 20, wherein each accession record represents a service request.

1 22. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 21, wherein each accession record includes a field indicating the payor.

1 23. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 22, wherein at least one of the plurality of error type records includes the payor field as  
3 part of the criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent  
4 an error.

1 24. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 22, wherein the plurality of error type records define criteria for determining when one  
3 or more fields of an accession record represents one of an internal error, unpriceable error,  
4 and unbillable error.

1 25. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 22, further performing the steps of:

3 g) generating a plurality of error handling records, each error handling record defining at  
4 least one step for the processing of an error type;

5 h) storing the plurality of error handling records in a database of the accession processing  
6 system;

7 i) retrieving an indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type  
8 from the indication database;

9 j) retrieving one of the plurality of error handling records that corresponds to the error type;  
10 and

11 k) performing the step dictated in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.



1 26. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field  
3 and the at least one step to be performed for the error type varies as a function of the  
4 accession payor.

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1 27. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 26, wherein the at least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling  
3 records includes one of automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside  
4 referral, and hold.

1 28. The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of  
2 claim 27, wherein at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective  
3 date field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type varies as a function of  
4 the accession record creation date.

1 29. A method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records stored in a database of an  
2 accession processing system where each accession record includes a plurality of fields,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 a) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;

5 b) retrieving one of a plurality of error type records, each record defining criteria for  
6 determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error;

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8 c) determining whether the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type  
records is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records; and

9 d) indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error  
10 type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is  
11 satisfied.

1 30. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 29, wherein each  
2 accession record represents a service request.

1 31. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 30, wherein each  
2 accession record includes a field indicating the payor.

1 32. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 31, wherein at  
2 least one of the plurality of error type records includes the payor field as part of the criteria  
3 for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error.

1 33. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 31, wherein the  
2 plurality of error type records define criteria for determining when one or more fields of an  
3 accession record represents one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and unbillable error.

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1 34. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 31, further  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 e) retrieving an indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type  
4 from the indication database;  
5 f) retrieving one of a plurality of error handling records that corresponds to the error type,  
6 each error handling record defining at least one step for the processing of an error type;  
7 and  
8 g) performing the step dictated in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.

1 35. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 34, wherein at  
2 least one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field and the at least one  
3 step to be performed for the error type varies as a function of the accession payor.

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canceled 36. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 35, wherein the at  
2 least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records includes one of  
3 automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral, and hold.

1 37. The method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records of claim 36, wherein at  
2 least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field and the at  
3 least one step to be performed for the error type varies as a function of the accession record  
4 creation date.

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